

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-13 DRC-01 /157 W

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P R 191436Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8577

INFO PAN CANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PN

SUBJ: DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY

DEPT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS AND FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMIN.

REF.: NY TIMES ARTICLE, SEP. 18, 1973

1. USIS REQUESTED EMBOFF TALK TO MR. RICHARD SEVERO, TIMES CORRESPONDENT BASED AT MEXICO CITY, CONCERNING DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY AND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE PROBLEM. EMBOFF AGREED TO SEE SEVERO ON CONDITION THAT USIS OFFICER ACCOMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LONG STANDING MISSION PRACTICE. MR. MELVIN NISWANDER, PAO, WAS PRESENT DURING INTERVIEW.

2. EMBOFF MADE CLEAR AT OUTSET THAT THERE WAS TO BE NO ATTRIBUTION AND THAT EMBASSY NOT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH WHATEVER STORY SEVERO MIGHT FILE. NISWANDER TOLD SEVERO INTERVIEW WAS "ON BACKGROUND." FIRST QUESTION RAISED BY SEVERO WAS WHETHER USG HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"ABANDONED THE HIGHWAY" (HIS WORDS). EMBOFF AND PAO

WENT TO SOME LENGTH TO CORRECT THAT IMPRESSION, EXPLAINING THAT, OWING TO DELAYS IN OBTAINING FMD AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA AND OTHER FACTORS, CONSTRUCTION TIMETABLE WAS DELAYED. BUT IN NO CASE WAS HIGHWAY "ABANDONED."

3. COMMENT: ARTICLE IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT SO FAR AS INTERVIEW CONCERNED WITH EXCEPTION CAPTION AND COMMENT RE FUNDING. SEVERO TOLD PAO AND EMBOFF CAPTION WAS WRITTEN NEW YORK. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT CAPTION CERTAINLY MISLEADING. EMBOFF AND PAO OBJECTED TO BREAKING OF NO ATTRIBUTION GROUND RULE. SEVERO SAID THERE WAS A MISUNDERSTANDING. SAYRE

NOTE BY OC/T: (1) NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.
(2) PASSED FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMIN (DOTE).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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